

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY CU/EE:JMJOYYE:DH

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P R 091358Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR (RIVERS, LARRY)

SUBJECT:AMSPEC VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION

1. LARRY RIVERS AND HIS SON STEPHEN RECEIVED PRE-DEPARTURE BRIEFINGS SEPTEMBER 8 IN THE DEPARTMENT. CU/EE ALSO ARRANGED FOR RIVERS TO MEET WITH FRED STARR OF THE KENNAN INSTITUTE FOR A DISCUSSION OF SOVIET CONTEMPORARY ART AND THE SOVIET ART BUREAUCRACY.

2. WE WERE IMPRESSED BY BOTH RIVERS AND HIS SON. THEY ARE PERSONABLE, ARTICULATE, AND SERIOUS IN THEIR APPROACH TO THEIR VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION. RIVERS PLANS NOT ONLY TO RAP WITH SOVIET ARTISTS ON THE US ART SCENE, BUT ALSO BRING BACK WORTHWHILE INSIGHTS INTO THE WORKINGS OF THE SOVIET ART WORLD.

3. WE SEE NO SIZEABLE PROBLEMS FOR THE EMBASSY IN THE VISIT. RIVERS WOULD LIKE TO VISIT DROZHKOPOLYA, NEAR L'VOV, IN WHAT WE PRESUME IS A CLOSED AREA. (THE VILLAGE

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IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF HIS MOTHER, WHO EMIGRATED FROM THE

UKRAINE IN THE 1920'S.) HE HAS A LIST OF CONTACTS IN THE SOVIET UNION, MOSTLY ARTISTS, WHOM HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE. HE ASKED IF IT WOULD BE ALLOWED TO VISIT UNOFFICIAL ARTISTS; WE REPLIED THAT THIS COULD PROBABLY BE ARRANGED,

AND SUGGESTED THAT HE CHECK WITH THE EMBASSY. RIVERS IS NOT INTENT, HOWEVER, ON MAKING THE UNOFFICIAL SCENE THE CENTER OF HIS VISIT.

4. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE NAME OF EMBASSY CONTACT OFFICER FOR RIVERS VISIT.

5. WE WILL LOOK FORWARD TO THE EMBASSY'S REPORT ON HIS VISIT. FYI RIVERS IS CLOSE FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE OF GEROGGE SEGAL, SCHEDULED TO VISIT USSR OCTOBER 16. KISSINGER

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